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DEPARTMENT OF NOTES, REVIEWS, ETC.

It is the purpose, in this department, to present from time to time brief original notes, both of methods of work and of results, by members of the Society. All members are invited to submit such items. In the absence of these there will be given a few brief abstracts of recent work of more general interest to students and teachers. There will be no attempt to make these abstracts exhaustive. They will illustrate progress without attempting to define it, and will thus give to the teacher current illustrations, and to the isolated student suggestions of suitable fields of investigation.—[Editor.]

FURTHER NOTES ON PRISTINA WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES.

This note is supplementary to the one that appeared in Science for October 18, 1912, vol. XXXVI., no. 929, p. 530. Two of the species described below were found in pools near Charlottesville, Va., while the third was found in an aquarium in the zoölogical laboratory of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. This last species, *Pristina antenniseta*, is remarkable for the fact that the sex organs are well developed at a time when the animal is actively engaged in the process of fission. The sex organs seem to be slightly different in their location from those described in *P. leidy*.

An unfortunate error in the previous note should be corrected here. The length of *Pristina variabilis* averages about 1.5 mm. instead of 8 microns as there given, an obvious error to any one familiar with the Naididae.

The following species of Naids were found in the aquaria of the University of Virginia, which had been filled from several ponds in the vicinity of the University and Charlottesville.

Chaetogaster langi Bretscher 1896,

Dero limosa Leidy 1852,

Nais parviseta Walton 1906,

Pristina variabilis n. sp.,

Pristina tangiseta n. sp.,

The following species of Naids were found in the aquaria of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, which had been filled from watering troughs and small ponds in the vicinity:

Dero vaga (Leidy 1880) L. Vaillant 1890,

Pristina antenniseta n. sp.

The three new species just mentioned are here described:

Pristina variabilis n. sp.

Prostomium with a tentacular process of varying length. Dorsal setae of two kinds: (1) capilliform, those of segment 2 about one-half, and of segment 3 about three-fourths as long as those of the following segments; and (2) short straight needle-like setae, bifid, with teeth unequal. Ventral bundles with four to eight biuncinate setae.

First nephridia in segment 9. Coelomic corpuscles black. Budding takes place after segment 15. Length about 1.5 mm. Number of segments about 30.

Reproductive organs not observed.

In ponds, etc. Virginia (Charlottesville).

This species differs from *Pristina* (*Naidium*) *breviseta* in length (*P. breviseta*, with its length of 8 mm. is a giant in comparison) and in the length of the tentacular process, which is well developed. This species meets the requirements made by Walton (American Naturalist, vol. XL., 1906, p. 705) who says:

"The absence of any tentacular process in *Naidium osborni* suggests that until a species is found in which the process is well developed and in which the dorsal bundles contain biuncinate setae, the genera may be considered distinct."

As I said in speaking of this species (Science, loc. cit.), it has both these requirements and therefore serves as a link between *Pristina* Ehrenberg and *Naidium* Schmidt, confirming Michaelsen's combination of them in 1909 (Die Süßwasserfauna Deutschlands, Heft 13, p. 25).

The species is named from the varying length of the tentacular process.

Pristina tangiseta n. sp.

Prostomium with a long tentacular process. Ventral bundles of setae with typically four bifid setae, the distal teeth longer than the proximal teeth. Dorsal setae serrated on the convex edge, and usually two to the bundle, one about 200 microns long and the other much shorter. On segment 3, the dorsal setae are much longer, from 400 to 600 microns, and have a motion independent of the

others. Their usual forward position suggests that they may be used as tactile organs, and for this reason I have suggested the specific name *tangiseta*.

First nephridia in segment 9. Glandular "stomach" in segment 8. Budding takes place after segment 25. Length 5 to 8 mm.

Reproductive organs not observed.

This form is much like *P. leidyi*, except that the dorsal setae are over six times as long as those of the latter, and the ventral setae of segment 6 are not modified as sexual setae, though it may be that these are only so modified during the period of sexual maturity.

In ponds, etc. Virginia (Charlottesville).

Pristina antenniseta n. sp.

Prostomium with a tentacular process as long as 450 microns, about 225 microns long at the moment of fission. Ventral bundles with 3 to 5 bifid setae, the distal teeth longer than the proximal teeth. Dorsal setae begin on segment 2. With the exception of segment 3, the dorsal bundles contain two convexly serrated capilliform setae from 200 to 450 microns in length, and from 2 to 4 needle-like setae, 60 to 75 microns long. The dorsal capilliform setae of segment 3 are both smooth, from 400 to 750 microns long, and usually point forwards as in *P. tangiseta*, hence the specific name.

First nephridia in segment 9. Glandular "stomach" in segment 8. Transverse vessels in segments 1 to 8, Cœlomic corpuscles greenish black. Budding takes place after segment 14. Length of full-grown individuals before beginning of fission 3 to 5 mm. Number of segments under similar circumstances about 28.

Testes and spermathecae in segment 6. Ovaries in segment 7. Seminal vesicles in segment 5.

This form is somewhat like *P. tangiseta*, except that there are no serrated setae in the dorsal bundles of segment 3, and that budding takes place usually after segment 14, 15, or 16, whereas in *P. tangiseta* it never takes place before segment 25.

P. antenniseta presents the rather rare condition of sexual maturity during the period of active fission. The sex organs will be

described in a later paper. This species is also rather variable in length. One individual was found which had a length of 7 mm., and was dividing in two places, behind the 22nd and the 36th segments.

In ponds, etc. Texas (College Station).

A. and M. College, Texas.

HORACE EDWIN HAYDEN, JR.

A NEMATODE PARASITE OF THE ALLIGATOR.

While dissecting an eighteen-inch Florida Alligator a curious swelling was noticed on the outside of the larger chamber of the stomach. On opening this swelling it was found to contain a small, coiled worm. The worm was sent to Dr. Edwin Linton for identification and proved to be, so far as could be determined, an immature specimen of *Ascaris tenuicollis* Rudolphi.

The worm had been hardened in formalin before it was discovered, so that it could not be uncoiled, but it was about 75 mm. in length.

Figure 1 shows the stomach of the alligator with the worm, n, in the capsule, but with the outer covering removed. This figure is about life size.

Figure 2 shows the worm after removal from the capsule, enlarged several times. Both figures are from photographs.

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BEHAVIOR OF PIGMENT CELLS IN LARVAE OF AMPHIBIANS.

Holmes (U. of Cal. Pub. Zool. Sept., 1913) has studied the pigment cells of *Hyla regilla* in hanging drop cultures of small pieces of the larvae. He was thus enabled to see both the outlines of the cells and the position of the pigment. In their natural position in the tissues it is practically impossible to see the actual outlines of the cells. In the hanging drop cultures the pigment cells may wander away from the rest of the tissue and become entirely isolated. These chromatophores differed widely in shape, and the individual cells changed shape readily, much after the manner of the *Ameba*. There is a thin layer of transparent ectoplasm behaving much like that in the *Ameba*. The endoplasm contains the pigment granules, varying greatly in amount.